

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Health and Hospitals Office of the Secretary Bureau of Health Services Financing

Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Health Services—Rehabilitation

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing has adopted the following emergency rule in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 46:153 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and as directed by the 1996-97 General Appropriation Act, which states: "The Secretary shall implement reductions in the Medicaid program as necessary to control expenditures to the level approved in this schedule. The Secretary is hereby directed to utilize various cost containment measures to accomplish these reductions, including but not limited to pre-certification, pre-admission screening, and utilization review, and other measures as allowed by federal law". This emergency rule is adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq. and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until adoption of the rule, whichever occurs first.

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing reimburses a flat fee for rehabilitation services included in an Individual Education Plan or Individual/Family Service Plan and provided by the school board or an early intervention centers under the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Health Services Program. These rehabilitation services include evaluation and treatment services for speech, occupational, physical, and psychological therapies as well as audiological services. These services were not reduced during state fiscal year 1995-1996 when similar services were reduced for other providers. The bureau has now determined that it is necessary to reduce the fees for these rehabilitation services. This action is necessary to avoid a budget deficit in the medical assistance programs. It is anticipated that implementation of this emergency rule will reduce expenditures by approximately \$486,485 for state fiscal year 1996-1997.

Emergency Rule

Effective for dates of service July 10, 1996 and after, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing reduces reimbursement fees by 10 percent for rehabilitation services included in an Individual Education Plan or Individual/Family Service Plan and provided by school boards and early intervention centers under the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Health Services Program for Medicaid recipients under 21 years of age. These rehabilitation services include evaluation and treatment services for speech, occupational, physical, and psychological therapies as well as audiological services.

Interested persons may submit written comments to: Thomas D. Collins, Bureau of Health Services Financing, Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. He is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this emergency rule.

Bobby P. Jindal
Secretary